

House Bill 1252

By: Representatives Jacobs of the 80th, Geisinger of the 48th, Chambers of the 81st, Willard of the 49th, Millar of the 79th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article 1 of Chapter 32 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, so as to create the Transit Governance Study Commission to prepare legislative proposals for a regional transit governing authority in Georgia, to study the impact that improved public transportation systems would have on traffic congestion, and to study the increase in service generated through combining public transportation systems into an integrated regional transit agency in order to maximize resource allocation; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for the composition, officers, and meetings of the commission; to provide for reports; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 1 of Chapter 32 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"50-32-5.

(a) The State of Georgia, particularly the metropolitan Atlanta region, faces a number of critical issues relating to its transportation system and ever-increasing traffic congestion. In light of the dwindling resources available to help solve the problems, it is imperative that all available resources be used to maximum efficiency in order to alleviate the gridlock in and around the metropolitan Atlanta region. There exists a need for a thorough examination of our current transportation system and the methodical development of legislative proposals for a regional transit governing authority in Georgia.

(b) In order to find practical, workable solutions to these problems, there is created the Transit Governance Study Commission to be composed of: three Senators from the Atlanta Regional Commission area to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, three

Representatives from the Atlanta Regional Commission area to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairperson of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Oversight Committee, the chairperson of the Atlanta Regional Commission, the chairperson of the Regional Transit Committee of the Atlanta Regional Commission, one staff member from the Atlanta Regional Commission to be selected by the chairperson of the Atlanta Regional Commission, the executive director of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, the general manager of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, and the directors of any other county transit systems operating in the Atlanta Regional Commission area.

(c) The commission shall elect, by a majority vote, one of its legislative members to serve as chairperson of the commission and such other officers as the commission deems appropriate. The commission shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the chairperson. The commission may conduct such meetings and hearings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish its objectives and purposes as contained in this Code section. The legislative members of the commission shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees.

(d) All officers and agencies of the three branches of state government are directed to provide all appropriate information and assistance as requested by the commission.

(e) The commission shall undertake a study of the issues described in this Code section and recommend specific legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate. Specifically, the commission shall determine the best manner in which to use the resources allocated in the region to public transportation, including a preliminary report on the feasibility of combining all of the regional public transportation entities into an integrated regional transit body. This preliminary report shall be completed on or before December 31, 2010, and be delivered to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The commission shall make a final report of its findings and recommendations, with specific language for proposed legislation, if any, on or before August 1, 2011, to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The commission shall stand abolished on August 1, 2011, unless extended by subsequent Act of the General Assembly."

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

61

SECTION 3.

62 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.